(a) whether it is a fact that Paradeep Phosphate Limited did not claim fertilizer subsidy of Rs. 60 crore which account's for more than half of the accumulated losses of the company;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Nauru has decided to withdraw its stake from the company; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) A claim of Rs. 90.32 crores from Paradeep Phosphates Limited is, at present, pending with Fertilizer Industry Coordination Committee (FICC) which relates to escalations due to price revision approved by FICC in its 55th meeting.

(c) and (d) The Government of Nauru have expressed their desire to withdraw their equity participation from Paradeep Phosphates Limited as, in their perception, the Company is not likely to make profits in the near future and pay dividents to them. No decision has been taken on the request of the Government of Nauru.

Policy on fertilizer pricing and subsidy

1449. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer industry has urged Government to announce policy on fertiliser pricing and subsidy to prevent its complete closure;

(b) what are the reasons for the present situation in the fertiliser industry; and

(c) what steps are being taken to avert the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Several representations have been received from the industry on fertilizer pricing and subsidy. They have also drawn attention to the liquidity crisis being faced by the units on account of delays in payment of subsidy dues to them, closure of a number of SSP units and threat of further closures as a result.

(c) Within the available budgetary allocations efforts are continuously made to clear the outstanding subsidy dues expeditiously. Further, a Parliamentary Committee is currently looking into various aspects of fertilizer pricing and subsidy.

Overcharging of prices under DPCO, 1987.

1450. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarred Question 378 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 1992 and state:

(a) what is the latest position of cases where *prima facie* overcharging of prices of bulk drugs and formulations under DPCO, 1987 have been established so far;

(b) what are the details regarding names of products and companies in respect of which complaints have been received or have appeared in the news papers but *prima facie* case of overcharging is yet to be established; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in launching the proceedings of prosecution against the companies as per Law and by when such a step would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) The cases of overcharging of prices of bulk drugs and formulations under DPCO, 1987 which came to the notice of Government are under examination. The list of